

S.N.C.C.

South Norwalk Community Center, Inc.

South Norwalk Community Center is a non-profit organization that serves the Community of Norwalk. Its **mission** is to meet the educational, counseling, vocational, employment, emotional, cultural and recreational needs of economically disadvantaged people and minority groups so that they become self-sufficient

Statement from Jose D. Castillo
Before the Appropriations Committee
March 4, 2011

Sen. Harp, Rep. Walker and member of the committee:

My Name is Josie D. Castillo, Executive Director of South Norwalk Community Center. On behalf of the South Norwalk Community Center, especially the low-income population/clients, I would like to express my concerns with the proposed elimination of the Human Resources Development and Hispanic Human Development Programs (HRD/HHD).

The South Norwalk Community Center provides quality human services to the residents of the South Norwalk and the Greater Norwalk community. Our clients are Spanish-speaking individuals and families with children; as well members of minority groups who are seeking assistance to improve their daily living for self-sufficiency. We help them with improving their economic conditions assist in their assimilation into the English-speaking community, empower children and adults to be proactively involved in the community, and provide a safe, healthy, social, and recreational environment, that eventually produces productive citizens of this state.

In addition, we provide Information and Referrals Services, Counseling in general, Interpretation and Translations services, Parents Orientation Groups, After School and Recreational program, Adult Educational services (Basic Skills, English as a Second Language, GED, Computer Skills), and Employment orientation.

We seriously invest in our clients and we are able to do so with several partnerships, especially DSS. In return, our clients give back to our state, by working, going to college, paying taxes, getting involved in civil activities, voting and others. Eliminating the HHD/HRD program funding will affect not only the Latino community, but everyone in the state.

We strongly recommend putting the HHD/HRD line-item back in the budget and continue to work with us in addressing the low-income, economically disadvantage communities that are considered to be part of the "**Safety Net**". Thank you.